

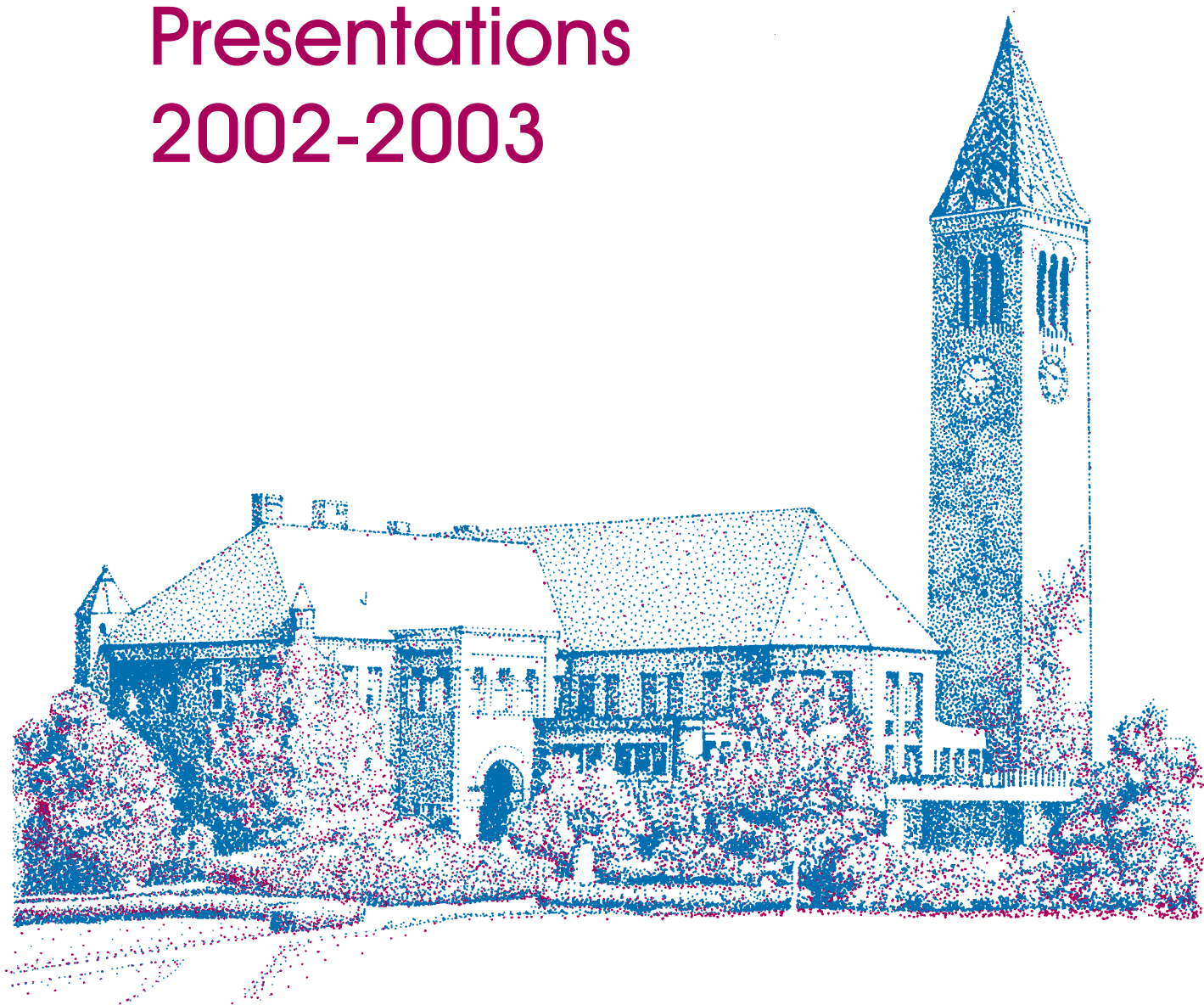


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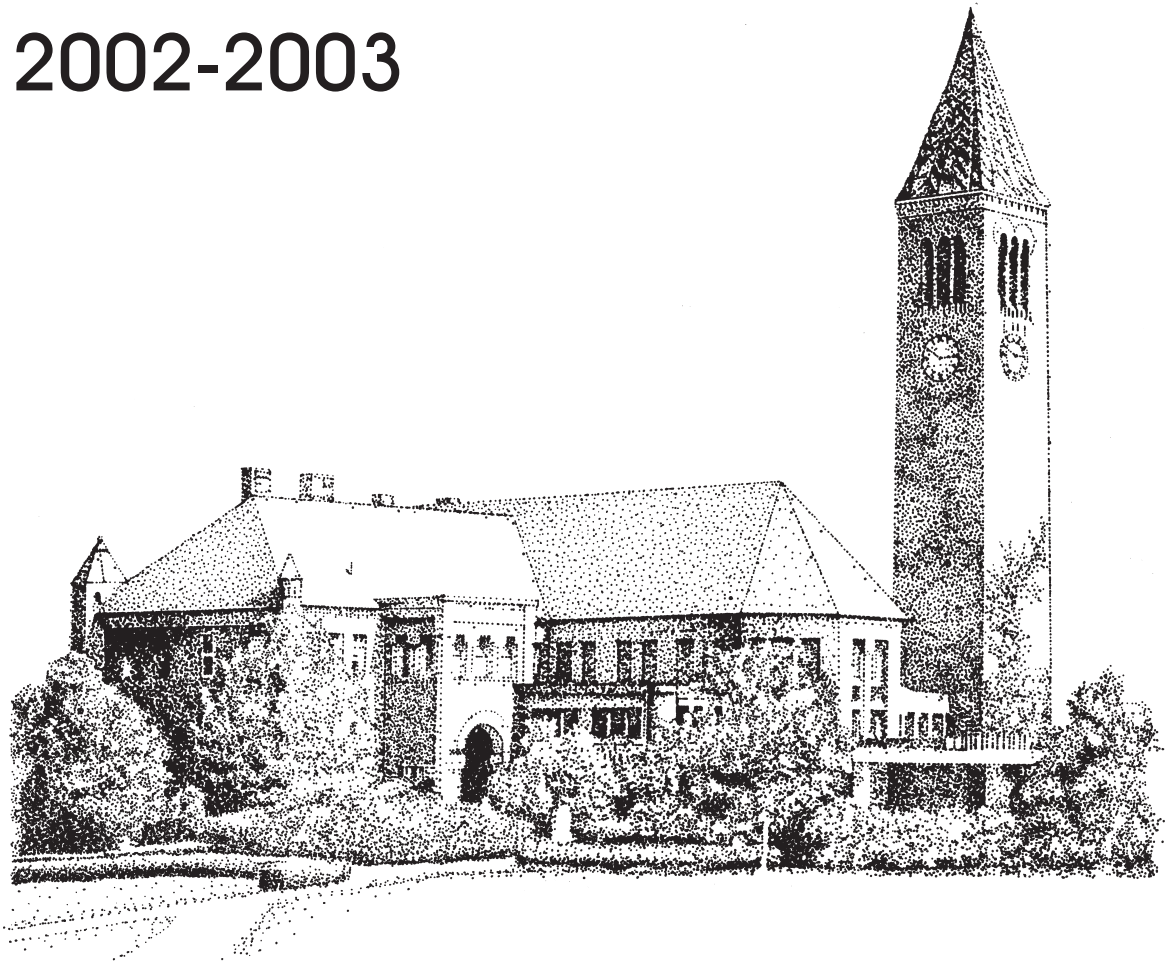
Catalog of University Presentations 2002-2003



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention • National Center for Health Statistics

Catalog of University Presentations 2002-2003



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Health Statistics

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service
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National Center for Health Statistics
6525 Belcrest Road, Room 915
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Dear Colleague:

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), one of the components of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is the federally designated agency responsible for monitoring and reporting on the Nation's health. Our programs include the coordination of the National Vital Statistics System and a wide variety of large-scale national surveys and research initiatives designed to help the Nation assess and track its health status, overall and for many specific population groups.

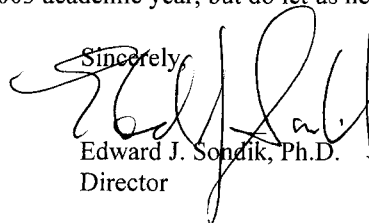
The NCHS University Visitation Program, a Center-funded program designed to encourage greater communication between the university research and teaching community and NCHS, is now in its 19th year. Since its inception, the program has sent NCHS technical staff members to schools and universities throughout the country for more than 600 presentations. This year's program covers a broad range of topics highlighting the important national health issues which rely on the data obtained through the Center's surveys and statistical data systems. Virtually every health statistic used to affect national and local health policy issues is produced by one of these surveys or data systems. Many of these issues are covered by the topics described herein. For example, this catalog includes topics as diverse and current as teen births, access to health care, racial and ethnic differences in health, multiple births, overweight prevalence, and firearms in American households. Several new topics relating to the elderly are being introduced this year, e.g., trends in health and aging, use of inappropriate prescription drugs among the elderly, and health care costs for the aged. Also included are topics that provide detailed information on how to access and use our data sources, particularly through the NCHS Research Data Center (RDC). The RDC, now in its fourth year, offers researchers the opportunity to access internal micro data files from NCHS surveys that previously were not available to the research community. These files contain lower levels of geography such as State, county, census tract, block-group, or blocks, depending on the survey. Other topics describe the Center's efforts in developing innovative methodological and analytical research to address such issues as increased public concerns about confidentiality and changes in survey response rates.

This highly successful program continues to offer much from which to choose. If you are interested in arranging for a presentation, or if you would like more information about the program, please contact:

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Please let us know if topics of interest to you do not appear in the catalog. We will make every effort to honor all requests for the 2002-2003 academic year, but do let us hear from you as early as possible.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Sondik, Ph.D.
Director

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CATALOG OF UNIVERSITY PRESENTATIONS

A. Programs of the National Center for Health Statistics

A-1. The National Center for Health Statistics—Plans for Its Future

A description is given of the current programs and organization of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), and its plans for responding to new health needs and legislative initiatives are discussed.

A-2. Data Resources of the National Center for Health Statistics

This presentation is an overview of the programs of NCHS, of the data it produces, and of its methods of acquiring those data resources. Publications, data tapes, CD-ROMs, diskettes, and other forms of data release are described, as well as guides to NCHS data and methods of identifying available data on specific topics.

A-3. The Statistical Research and Survey Methods Program of the National Center for Health Statistics

This presentation is a description of a basic long-range research program for the improvement of existing measurement methods and for the innovation of more efficient methods for producing and analyzing health and vital statistics. Some of the specific research projects of this program are discussed.

A-4. Integrated Survey Redesign

During the past decade, NCHS embarked on a program of integrating the sample designs of about a dozen independently designed national population and establishment surveys. The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), the largest of the NCHS population sample surveys, serves as the fulcrum for the integrated survey design. The NHIS microdata set is the sampling frame for NCHS population surveys and the NHIS primary sampling units serve as the primary sampling units for the NCHS establishment surveys. The achievements of the integrated design program over the past decade and the research planned for redesigning NHIS

after the 1990 census are described in this presentation.

A-5. The National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Program

This presentation reviews the goals and extent of the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Program (NNMRRP) in light of current interest topics such as hunger, food labeling, diet, and health. National surveys and data systems that contribute to the monitoring and the surveillance of nutritional status are discussed in an integrated fashion to demonstrate how the components of the NNMRRP supplement and complement each other. Programs such as the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, the National Health Interview Survey, the continuing Survey of Food Intakes by Individuals, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, and the National Nutrient Data Bank are examined in relation to implementation activities for the Ten-Year Comprehensive Plan for the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Program.

A-6. The Research Data Center (RDC)

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) has developed a Research Data Center (RDC) that allows researchers and data users to access internal data files from its numerous surveys that have not been available to the research community until now. The internal files contain lower levels of geography such as State, county, census tract, block-group, or blocks, depending on the survey.

Examples of data systems that are available through the RDC include the National Health Interview Survey, the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, the National Hospital Discharge Survey, the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) (the NSFG contextual data files consist of the survey data and about 1,300 contextual variables and are available only through the RDC), and others.

Researchers may use the files to merge other contextual data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the Area Resource File, or other data collected or provided by the researcher (air pollution data; State, county, or local laws or ordinances; reimbursement policies; medical facilities; etc.) to perform contextual analyses while maintaining respondent confidentiality.

Because of the confidentiality constraints, NCHS has not been able to release survey data with lower levels of geography to its data users, which has limited the amount and types of research projects that could be undertaken with its data systems. The development of the RDC begins an exciting new era for NCHS and its data users.

This presentation describes how researchers can gain access to the RDC.

A-7. Developments in Cartography and GIS at the National Center for Health Statistics

Mapping of health events at the national level has evolved from labor-intensive procedures to an automated process. Now with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and digital mapping technology, personal computer applications have become the basis for cartographic output at NCHS. A wide range of statistical mapping techniques and innovative cartographic designs are presented.

A-8. Maternal and Child Health Research Efforts at the National Center for Health Statistics

NCHS offers a number of data systems which can be used to address, directly or indirectly, issues in maternal and child health. Among the resources available are the national birth files, State-specific birth files, the linked birth and infant death files, the National Maternal and Infant Health Survey (NMIHS), and the Longitudinal Followup to the NMIHS, studies on child immunization, the National Survey of Family Growth, and the Health Interview Survey. This presentation will provide examples of research conducted at NCHS from each of these data systems, and touch on subjects such as prenatal care use, national trends in adverse birth outcomes, pediatric health care utilization,

racial and ethnic differentials in birth outcomes, and childhood chronic conditions.

A-9. The Nation's Prevention Agenda: Tracking the Healthy People 2010 Objectives

Healthy People 2010, the third generation of objectives to improve the health of the Nation, was released in January 2000. *Healthy People 2010* includes 467 objectives that encompass a broad spectrum of public health issues, a few of which are nutrition, alcohol and drug use, injuries and violence, oral health, cancer, HIV infection, family planning, and public health infrastructure. Baseline data do not currently exist for over 100 of these objectives (called "developmental"). This provides an agenda for data development over the next decade. This presentation discusses some of the issues and challenges for identifying and developing data sources to track the objectives, including data for special population subgroups and subnational geographic areas. Issues regarding measurement and data quality are also discussed.

A-10. The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey: 1999 and Beyond

The content of the latest National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), which began field operations in March 1999, will be reviewed in terms of public health issues addressed and methodologies. Discussion of current design of the study, field operations, and planned data releases as well as future planned innovations for the NHANES program will also be presented, including plans for the merger with the USDA Continuing Survey of Food Intake of Individuals (CSFII).

A-11. Coordination for Improved Health Statistics—The National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics and Other Mechanisms

This presentation covers the history and accomplishments of the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics. In addition, other mechanisms that are promoting comparability and quality of data are reviewed. The development and promulgation of minimum data sets, standard classifications, and other products are discussed.

A-12. Confidentiality and Data Access Policies at the National Center for Health Statistics

Review of need for statistical, legal, and ethical factors in the development of confidentiality in data collection programs at NCHS. Description of how confidentiality affects field practices, data processing procedures, analytical programs, publication policies, and data release arrangements. Overall effect on quality and amount of detail of data available is evaluated. Impact of recent and proposed legislation and changes in institutional relationships is discussed.

B. Data Systems of the National Center for Health Statistics

B-1. Overview of the Data Systems of the National Center for Health Statistics

This presentation is a summary of the various data-collection mechanisms used by NCHS to gather statistics on the health of the Nation. The types of statistics produced by each are described.

B-2. The Second Longitudinal Study of Aging

The Second Longitudinal Study of Aging (LSOA II) provides a wealth of health-related statistics on the U.S. elderly population. It is a second-generation, multiwave survey of a nationally representative sample of 9,447 civilian noninstitutionalized persons 70 years of age and over. As a second-generation study, one of the major objectives of the LSOA II is to replicate portions of the first Longitudinal Study of Aging (LSOA), conducted with 7,527 persons 70 years of age and over in 1984, 1986, 1988, and 1990, particularly those portions pertaining to functional status and the causes and consequences of transitions in functioning. A second objective of the LSOA II is to provide a mechanism for monitoring the impact of proposed changes in Medicare and Medicaid and the accelerating shift toward managed care on the health status of the elderly and their patterns of health care utilization. Like the LSOA, the LSOA II is scheduled to consist of four waves of interviews: 1994/1995, 1997, 1999, and 2001. The first two have been completed. The purposes, procedures, and data elements are described in this presentation.

B-3. Development and Operation of the National Health Provider Inventory

The purpose and methodology used to develop the National Health Provider Inventory are reviewed. The presentation also includes a discussion of the development and content of the data collection instruments, data collection procedures, data processing procedures, and dissemination of the data.

B-4. Development and Operation of the National Nursing Home Survey

The purpose and methodology used to develop the National Nursing Home Survey are discussed. Also included is a description of data collected to provide estimates of the Nation's

nursing homes according to their characteristics, costs, residents, and staff. The development and content of the data collection instruments, procedures, processing, and dissemination of the data are also discussed.

B-5. The National Health Care Survey

NCHS conducts a family of health records surveys, collectively called the National Health Care Survey, in which information is collected on patient and provider characteristics and the services they provide. The surveys—the National Hospital Discharge Survey, the National Survey of Ambulatory Surgery, the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, the National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, the National Nursing Home Survey, and the National Home and Hospice Care Survey—are described in terms of scope, data set, design, data collection methods, processing procedures, and data dissemination. Specific examples of how the survey data have been and can be used for monitoring, evaluating, and planning the use of health care are also discussed. Plans for future survey and research activities are also presented.

B-6. The National Death Index

The National Death Index (NDI) is a computerized central file of death record information. It is compiled from magnetic tapes submitted to NCHS by the State vital statistics offices. These tapes contain a standard set of identifying information for each decedent, beginning with deaths occurring in 1979. Investigators conducting prospective and retrospective studies can use the NDI to determine whether persons in their studies have died. If so, they can be provided with the names of the States in which those deaths occurred, the dates of death, and the corresponding death certificate numbers. The NDI user can then arrange with the appropriate State offices to obtain copies of death certificates or specific statistical information, such as cause of death. This presentation describes how the NDI operates, how the matching criteria are used to link user records with death records, how to interpret the results of an NDI file search, the effectiveness of the

matching process, and how to apply for use of the service.

B-7. The National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG): An Evolving Tool for the Study of U.S. Fertility and Reproductive Health

This presentation covers a brief review of the survey over four decades, with emphasis on innovations in Cycle 5 (fielded in 1995). In addition to showcasing the content and analytic potential of Cycle 5, particularly the new event history data, possible future developments of the survey are explored.

B-8. Use of Data From the National Center for Health Statistics Regarding Renal Diseases

This presentation is an overview of the sources and uses of data regarding renal conditions. It includes a discussion of information available on renal-related mortality, hospitalization, and other health care use. Use of NCHS data to make prevalence estimates for selected renal conditions is also covered. The presentation will provide some advice on the use of *International Classification of Diseases* (ICD) codes to identify renal conditions and the appropriate interpretation of NCHS data relevant to this topic.

B-9. Underlying and Multiple Causes of Death

This presentation is an overview of NCHS mortality data, including the role of NCHS, the World Health Organization, and the States in collecting and classifying mortality data. The distinction between underlying and multiple cause-of-death data is emphasized. Advantages and limitations of underlying and multiple cause-of-death data are discussed. Applications of multiple cause-of-death data (entity and record axis), analytical potential, uses, and quality of cause-of-death data are explored.

B-10. Environmental Data From the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)

Starting with the first National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES I), the NHANES program has periodically collected environmental exposure data on the civilian population of the United States. This

presentation reviews environmental exposure data sets from NHANES that are available for analysis and gives examples of how the data can be used.

B-11. Monitoring the Quality of Health Care in the United States: The National Health Care Quality Report

Scheduled for publication in the fall of 2003 and annually thereafter, the National Health Care Quality Report (NHQR) includes a broad set of performance measures that will be used to monitor the Nation's progress toward improved health care quality. Using national and State-level data from multiple Federal agencies, the NHQR will provide annual information to Congress, policymakers, and consumers on the status of health care quality and quality improvement throughout the United States. NCHS is working with other Federal agencies in an interagency workgroup to develop a set of initial health care performance measures that correspond to a conceptual framework developed by the Institute of Medicine (IOM). IOM recommended a conceptual framework of a matrix containing both dimensions of care (e.g., effectiveness, safety, timeliness, patient centeredness, equity) and patient needs across the life cycle (e.g., staying healthy, getting better, living with illness or disability, coping with the end of life). In identifying priority areas to address in the initial report, the NHQR will include priorities established in Healthy People 2010, such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes. This NCHS presentation will provide an overview of the first NHQR, focusing on conceptualizing, measuring, and reporting on health care quality in the United States as well as next steps in the evolution of the NHQR.

B-12. Measuring Health Care Quality with the National Health Care Survey

Researchers and policymakers interested in assessing the quality of health care in the United States can look to the National Health Care Survey (NHCS) fielded by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) for a wealth of data on quality of care.

The NHCS is a family of establishment-based surveys, each of which collects data on the characteristics of the health care establishment, the patients who receive health care services and the content of the clinical encounter.

Because the NHCS includes surveys of hospital discharges (National Hospital Discharge Survey), outpatient visits to physician offices (National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey) and hospital outpatient and emergency departments (National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey), as well as the National Nursing Home Survey and the National Home and Hospice Care Survey, quality of care indicators are available across the entire health care continuum and over time. For example, the NHCS can be used to monitor the quality of care provided to individuals with diabetes or heart disease, using indicators from either the inpatient or outpatient care domains. Hospital discharge rates for diabetics undergoing below the knee amputations, the proportion of diabetics receiving recommended outpatient tests, the proportion of hypertensive individuals with a script for a first-line antihypertensive drug, or the percent of nursing home residents who received an influenza vaccine are some of the many possible quality measures available in the surveys that comprise the NCHS.

B-13. Operations of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)

The practical field operations of the NHANES study will be reviewed with a focus on current methods employed to assure successful implementation of a large national examination study.

B-14. The NHANES I Epidemiologic Followup Study: 20 Years After NHANES I

This presentation describes the NHANES I Epidemiologic Followup Study. The cohort comprises the 14,407 persons 25–74 years of age who were examined in the first National Health and Nutrition Examination Study (NHANES I). The Followup investigated how factors measured at baseline relate to health conditions that have developed since that time. Three waves of Followup have been completed,

1982–84, 1986, and 1987. Study design, tracing success, and completeness of data collection are reviewed. The mortality experience of the cohort and selected epidemiologic findings are also presented.

B-15. The National Mortality Followback Survey Program

Designed to supplement data routinely collected from death certificates, this presentation gives an overview of the development of the program, with an emphasis on the two most recent surveys conducted in 1986 and 1993. Included is a discussion of the sample design, development and content of the data collection instruments, data collection and quality control procedures, data processing procedures, and the dissemination of the data. Also presented is a discussion of future directions for the program.

B-16. Overview of the Ambulatory Medical Care Surveys

The National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS) and the National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS) are conducted annually to provide comprehensive data on the patient, provider, and visit characteristics of visits to physician offices and hospital emergency and outpatient departments. Using the sampling weights allows researchers to estimate national statistics on diagnoses made, therapies used, medications prescribed, and differences found in provider caseloads and practices. Data may be used for epidemiological studies as well. This presentation provides an overview of the NAMCS and NHAMCS, the availability of the data, and significant findings.

B-17. Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

The Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES III) content is described in terms of public health issues addressed and methodologies. Discussion of the sample design and population coverage, including response rates, is presented for issues

that should be considered as the data are analyzed. The current status and availability of microdata tapes, as well as NCHS plans for data analysis, are presented.

B-18. Reporting Findings From Health Examination Surveys: Challenges and Solutions

The methods employed by NHANES in reporting back to study participants of extensive and often sensitive clinical results will be reviewed. Discussion will address specific unique protocols developed for NHANES, including a system for reporting sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) results by telephone, using passwords, and the procedures for determining how abnormal results are reported and assessing the severity of abnormal results.

B-19. Complementary and Alternative Medicine and the National Health Interview Survey

This presentation provides an overview of the 2002 Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) Supplement to the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). A review of existing research on CAM utilization is presented, with particular emphasis on recent analyses utilizing data from the 1999 NHIS. Building on this review, the key development activities surrounding the supplement are discussed, including the formation and convening of an expert panel, questionnaire design, and cognitive testing. Question-response problems that arose during the latter are highlighted along with resulting instrument revisions designed to improve data accuracy. The presentation concludes with an overview of the fielded questionnaire, showcasing its content and analytic potential.

B-20. The National Health Interview Survey: An Overview

For nearly 50 years, the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) has been monitoring the Nation's health by means of face-to-face interviews with large cross-sectional sample surveys of the population. This presentation gives an overview of the NHIS: its origins and

history, its design and content, its analysis and dissemination, and its uses for making and evaluating public health policy. Emphasis is given to recent changes in the NHIS that have improved its accuracy, timeliness, accessibility, and policy relevance, such as computer-assisted personal interviews, State and local area data, and release of microdata on the World Wide Web.

B-21. The National Immunization Survey: An Overview and Analysis of Survey Data

The National Immunization Survey (NIS) collects information on the immunization coverage of children 19 months to 35 months of age across the United States. Data are used to monitor immunization coverage in the preschool population in 78 nonoverlapping geographic areas. The survey is a collaborative effort between NCHS and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Immunization Program. This presentation can include recent findings, background on the survey design, methodological issues, and questionnaire content.

B-22. A Comparison of Survey Approaches: The NHIS, State and Local Area Integrated Telephone Survey (SLAITS), and the Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System (BRFSS)

The NHIS, SLAITS, and the BRFSS are three large population-based surveys sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This presentation addresses the similarities and differences in populations, data collection techniques, questionnaire wording and topics, and discusses the appropriate purposes of and uses for each survey and its data.

B-23. Health Examination Surveys—What Can They Contribute to Assessing the Nation's Health?

The purpose and methodologies used in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys are described in detail. Uses of the data are emphasized with respect to national

health and nutritional issues. How uses affect future study design is discussed in terms of sampling and content.

B-24. The Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey—Contributions to Nutrition Monitoring

The Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES III) sampled over 40,000 Americans in 89 locations across the United States in two 3-year phases that began in 1988 and ended in 1994. NHANES III features many components, including 24-hour dietary recalls, food frequencies, interviews, biochemical assessments, physical examinations, and physiological testing that contribute to monitoring the dietary, nutritional, and health status of the U.S. population. This presentation describes the methodologies used to assess nutritional status in NHANES III, examines the uses of nutrition monitoring data, and illuminates the survey's role in the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Program.

B-25. Injury Data From the Ambulatory Medical Care Surveys

The National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS) and the National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS) are conducted annually to provide comprehensive data on the patient, provider, and visit characteristics of visits to physician offices and hospital emergency and outpatient departments. The surveys include items on external cause of injury, place of injury, whether the injury was related to work, and the intentionality of the injury. The surveys provide one of the best national resources for data on nonfatal injuries and the burden on the health care industry. This presentation provides an overview of the major findings of studies looking at ambulatory injury visits and methodological and analytical considerations when using the survey data.

B-26. Health Insurance Data From the National Health Interview Survey and a Brief Overview of Health Insurance Data Available From Other NCHS Surveys

Improving the health care access of the uninsured population in the United States is an important health policy issue. The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) allows for obtaining health insurance coverage (both public and private) of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. Detailed information is available on these coverage types: private, Medicaid, Medicare, CHIP, military, Indian Health Service, and other public programs. Managed care information is obtained for the private, Medicaid, and Medicare populations. For the uninsured population, the reasons for not having health care coverage and the length of time since last coverage are determined. The NHIS collects extensive sociodemographic and health variables which may be related to the different types of health care coverage.

B-27. Testing Disability Questions in the NCHS Cognitive Lab

In recent years the Questionnaire Design Research Laboratory in the NCHS Office of Research and Methodology has conducted several rounds of cognitive testing on a variety of disability questions. Cognitive testing is a methodology designed to reduce response error to survey questions at an early stage in questionnaire development. The questions were designed to elicit information about aspects of deafness, blindness, mobility limitation, depression, and environmental barriers to participation. This presentation will describe the process of testing potential disability questions and the findings from the work.

B-28. The Matched Multiple Birth File

In the United States between 1980 and 1999, the number of twin births climbed 67 percent, and triplet-plus births by 448 percent. In 1998, 30 percent of all very low birthweight infants and 18 percent of all neonatal deaths were born in multiple deliveries. Despite their growing numbers and the substantial impact multiple births are exerting on measures of infant health,

the United States has lacked a national data base with information on sets of multiples. This talk describes the first comprehensive U.S. data file to include matched sets of births and fetal deaths in multiple deliveries. “The Matched Multiple Birth Data Set” was created to fill a gap in U.S. natality and fetal death files. These files, based on birth and death certificate data, contain important data on individual events, but lack information on multiple sets; set mates are not linked together in any way. As a result, it has not been possible to examine basic characteristics of the multiple set such as gender-type and birthweight differences among set mates. The new data file includes a wealth of information on sets of twins and triplets born to U.S. residents for 1995–97. The vast majority (98.8 percent) of all twin and triplet records were matched for a total of 152,222 sets of twins and 5,353 sets of triplets. Corresponding linked infant deaths are also included.

B-29. The State and Local Area Integrated Telephone Survey (SLAITS): Surveys of Children’s Health

SLAITS is the newest data collection tool at NCHS. By using the same random-digit-dial telephone survey approach and sampling frame as the ongoing National Immunization Survey of the National Immunization Program, SLAITS provides a mechanism to collect data quickly on a broad range of topics at the national, State, and local levels. SLAITS is funded through sponsorship of specific surveys, which recently have included the National Survey of Early Childhood Health and the National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs and will soon include the National Survey of Children’s Health. This presentation can emphasize SLAITS data on the health status, health care, and health care supervision for children. This presentation can also emphasize SLAITS design and survey operations as well as the challenges inherent in crafting telephone surveys of children’s health that meet State and local health data needs.

C. Methodology

C-1. Quality of Rare Item Coding

Generally, quality control systems are designed to ensure that the processes measured are under statistical control and to provide for courses of action when the process is no longer in control. As most quality control systems are based on sample verification, the quality measure usually refers to the overall process rather than to specific components. For example, a coding operation may be performed within the established quality standard even though specific categories of codes, especially those that rarely or infrequently occur, have very high error rates. Often it is not clear whether these items with high error rates are inherently more difficult to code or whether their high error rates result more from the limited coding experience associated with their lower frequencies of occurrence. This presentation includes a discussion of some of the procedures tested at the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) to identify and correct errors associated with the coding of rare but critical items in selected NCHS data systems.

C-2. Quality Control Procedures for Medical Coding

This presentation is a description of recent modifications made in the quality control procedures for medical coding of data from three of NCHS's data systems. The modifications substantially reduced the original resource requirements needed to operate the quality control procedures while maintaining the ability to provide unbiased estimates of coding quality.

C-3. Quality of Data Collection in the National Hospital Discharge Survey

Data have been collected through the National Hospital Discharge Survey (NHDS) on a continuing basis since its inception in 1964. These data are based primarily on information abstracted from a sample of patient medical records. The quality of this data collection operation is measured by independently reabstracting a subset of the originally sampled records. In recent years, the types of source documents used to complete the NHDS abstract form have become more varied. Thus it has become more difficult to

measure the quality (in terms of accuracy and completeness) of the information. This presentation contains findings of a special study designed to evaluate the effects of expanded source use on the quality of abstracted NHDS data.

C-4. Applying Cognitive Interviewing to Questionnaire Design

Cognitive interviewing methods are increasingly used to design, test, and evaluate survey questionnaires. These methods rely on theories of cognitive psychology and intensive interviewing protocols to identify problems with survey questions and improve researchers' understanding of what responses mean. This presentation is an overview of the principles and methods of cognitive interviewing, including examples of some interviewing results. Additional topics can include how laboratory methods complement other forms of questionnaire evaluation and recent investigations to enhance cognitive interviewing methodology. The length and scope of the presentation is flexible and can be adjusted to the background of the audience.

C-5. Issues in Standardizing NCHS Mortality Data

This presentation discusses the need for eliminating, and methods designed to eliminate, the confounding effects of population composition on comparisons of death rates between groups or over time. The focus will be primarily on age standardization or "age-adjustment," although issues in standardizing for other compositional factors will also be discussed. The presentation will cover both the direct and indirect methods of standardization. In addition, issues related to changing the standard weights used in the direct method will be discussed.

C-6. Use and Interpretation of Diagnostic Statistics From Selected NCHS Data Systems

NCHS reports that present data from two or more data systems may show substantially different magnitudes for what is nominally the same health condition or health care service for a condition. This is true even when the same classification of diagnoses has been used in

tabulating the data. This presentation describes the factors that affect the use and interpretation of diagnostic data, that is, information on the occurrence of diseases, causes of death, health conditions, and physiological characteristics that are collected in selected NCHS data systems.

C-7. Introduction to Sampling for Health Professionals

This presentation is an introduction to survey sampling for health professionals who need a basic understanding of sample surveys. The objectives of the seminar are to present a conceptual framework for survey sampling, introduce common terminology, present the steps involved in survey sampling, explain common sampling strategies, and present criteria for good sample design. The length and technical sophistication of the seminar are flexible.

C-8. Stratifying Primary Sampling Units

A common survey design problem is the stratification of primary sampling units (PSUs) before sample selection. Historically, stratification has been accomplished either judgmentally or through the use of custom-written computer software. This problem can be addressed through standard cluster analysis techniques. The use of the Statistical Analysis System (SAS) procedure, PROC CLUSTER, is demonstrated in the context of an example from the Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (HHANES).

C-9. Expanding Disease Surveillance Opportunities With Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Digital cartography may well become one of the more important technologies in health surveillance in the 1990s. GIS provide a mechanism for integrating "n" map layers of geographic-referenced observations through highly sophisticated surface generation techniques and a variety of map algebras. Coefficients of association can in turn be used to generate and model complex spatial

relationships that have otherwise been impossible or difficult to detect.

C-10. Pitfalls to Avoid When Designing Survey Questionnaires

This presentation provides an overview of general principles of questionnaire design as well as interesting problems detected when testing questionnaires in the cognitive research laboratory.

C-11. The Randomized Response Technique for Collecting Data

The randomized response technique can be used to produce estimates of sensitive behavior. This presentation is a discussion of the technique in general, a specific application in the National Survey of Family Growth to produce estimates of women having abortions, problems experienced, and results.

C-12. Question, Questionnaire, and Survey Design in the NHIS

The NHIS is an annual survey in two main parts: a core that stays essentially the same from year to year, and one or more topical modules that add new questions or topics for a given year. This presentation will cover the concepts underlying the design of a new topical module including objectives to be reached; concepts to be included; question design, including cognitive testing in a questionnaire design laboratory; survey design, including questionnaire flow and data output; computer specifications; local and field pretests; and the kind of data and publications that result.

C-13. Doing the National Health Interview Survey: Questionnaire Design, Fieldwork Procedures, Quality Control, and Data Processing

Like any large, high-quality national survey, the annual National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) does not just happen. Doing the NHIS takes detailed planning of scores of tasks undertaken by hundreds of people. This behind-the-scenes presentation traces the survey process from the first recognition of a health data need to the final analyzable data that meet that need. Case studies illustrate the problems that surveys must solve, such as converting from paper questionnaires to computers,

compensating for declining public cooperation, and complying with new safeguards on confidentiality. This presentation will be especially interesting to those who are studying survey methods or using survey data.

C-14. Sample Design, Weighting, and Estimation for the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)

The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) is a multipurpose health survey, and it is the principal source of information on the health of the civilian noninstitutionalized household population of the United States. The NHIS data are obtained through personal interviews with household members conducted each week throughout the year. These interviews produce a probability sample of households. NHIS data are obtained through a complex sample design involving stratification, clustering, and multistage sampling, and the weights are subject to several adjustments. Variance estimation methodology involves numerous simplifying assumptions about the design and weighting. This presentation focuses on sampling design and its impact on weighting calculations and variance estimation procedures. Formation of sampling weights and detailed procedures for taking the sampling design into account for variance estimation are also discussed.

C-15. Problems in International Comparison of Health Services Data

International data on the supply, organization, and use of health services are discussed. Common international differences from the United States in definitions of basic measures, such as hospital discharge, specialist, and physician visit are described. The importance of the differences and approaches to adjusting data to improve comparability are examined.

C-16. The International Classification of Diseases (ICD) and Its Use for Mortality

The ICD is used worldwide as the classification standard for diagnostic and cause-of-death statistics. It is increasingly being used as the basis for reimbursements to health care

providers in a number of health care delivery systems in the United States and several other countries. The wide range of uses to which this classification is being put, as well as its periodic revision, present issues of data quality, appropriate analytic techniques, and interpretation.

C-17. Assessing Customer Satisfaction in a Federal Statistical Agency

Executive Order 12862, issued in September 1993, requires all Federal agencies to survey their customers to determine the kind and quality of services wanted and the level of satisfaction with existing services. This presentation describes how the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is responding to a Presidential directive to assess customer satisfaction. Innovative discussion group methodology was used to obtain input from data users representing a variety of sectors in eight small discussion groups at the 1994 NCHS Data Users Conference. Similar procedures were used to assess customer satisfaction at the 1995 Public Health Conference on Records and Statistics. This presentation describes the methods used; some results of the sessions; and how Federal agencies can unobtrusively incorporate customer satisfaction evaluations into current programs, improve outreach aimed at current and potential customers, and identify gaps in current and future products or services needed by private and public sectors.

C-18. Some Properties of Multidimensional Statistical Tables

Two-dimensional tables of counts enjoy several mathematical properties that facilitate statistical analysis. Unfortunately, several of these properties do not extend to three- and higher-dimensions. This presentation will describe these properties, illustrate by example their failure to extend, and discuss implications in areas including survey sampling and statistical disclosure limitation.

C-19. Integrated Survey Design

Integrated survey design refers to designs for families of linked surveys in which one (or more) of the surveys in the family serves as the sample frame(s) for the others. The Center's national household and establishment surveys were originally designed as independent surveys. This presentation is a discussion of the progress being made in the Center's program for integrating the designs of the Center's household and establishment surveys with the National Health Interview Survey serving as the sampling frame for the other surveys.

C-20. Construction and Use of U.S. Life Tables

This presentation focuses on methodological issues in the construction and use of U.S. life tables. Both theoretical issues and practical methods are discussed. Life table methods can be used to show much more than life expectancy. Also discussed are specialized uses of life tables, including survival analysis, multiple decrement life tables, and cause-elimination life tables.

C-21. Survey Data Quality in the National Health Interview Survey

The final quality of the data obtained in a survey is affected by all phases of data collection including topic selection, wording and ordering of questions, method of data collection, editing processes, analytic research, testing of the product, output files, and documentation. This presentation addresses issues, processes, and solutions that have been developed to maintain and improve the quality of the data from the NHIS.

C-22. Collection of Sensitive Data in the National Survey of Family Growth

In the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), two primary strategies were used to improve the reporting of sensitive events among women of reproductive age: 1) a \$20 cash incentive was given to all respondents; and 2) a small part of the interview was conducted with a self-administered technique called audio computer-assisted self-interviewing

(Audio CASI). Experience with the 1993 NSFG Pretest as well as several other surveys demonstrated that these approaches can elicit more reports of sensitive data such as abortion, HIV-risking behaviors, number of sexual partners, and forced sexual intercourse. This presentation will review past evidence as well as results of using these innovative strategies in the 1995 NSFG.

C-23. Using Focus Group Methodology in Questionnaire Design

In the past 5 years, using focus group methodology to design health questionnaires has gained widespread interest among survey researchers. Focus groups are qualitative in nature and provide researchers with valuable insights and a better understanding of people's way of thinking. They afford the researcher a rare opportunity to obtain potential respondents' perceptions, expectations, experiences, and ideas about a research issue before developing or finalizing a questionnaire. This presentation provides a basic understanding of how focus groups are conducted (for example, identifying and recruiting participants, developing the moderator's guide, audio- and videotaping results for analysis, and evaluating results), potential uses to minimize response errors in questionnaires (for example, clearly describing the purpose of the study, item wording and order, and identifying optimal item response formats), and implementing results to construct a quality questionnaire.

C-24. Combining a Technical Review of Questionnaires With Identification of Cognitive Issues

The Questionnaire Design Research Laboratory develops and tests questionnaires in a laboratory setting using the concepts and techniques of cognitive science. In addition to conducting cognitive interviews, which focus on the internal processes by which individuals respond to survey questions, critical "armchair" reviews of instruments are performed. These reviews combine the traditional questionnaire design process with identification of cognitive issues. This

presentation describes the kinds of cognitive factors that can be identified in a critical review without the benefit of actual cognitive interviews. These include judgments required to answer questions, recall problems, and evaluate the complexity of tasks imposed on respondents, vagueness, and terminology problems.

C-25. Analyzing Complex Survey Data

This presentation focuses on the statistical methods and software for the analysis of complex survey data. In particular, variance estimation, categorical data analysis, and logistic regression analysis are addressed. The emphasis in this presentation is on statistical methodology and how to adjust test statistics to account for survey design features. Examples to illustrate the methods are taken from NCHS population-based surveys such as the NHIS, NHANES, and NMES.

C-26. The Use of Survey Data Analysis (SUDAAN) for Complex Survey Data

The software package SUDAAN can be used to produce variance estimates, including the use of poststratification and to analyze complex sample survey data. The most recent version of SUDAAN includes modules for continuous and discrete data, quantile estimation, ratio estimates, categorical data analysis, regression analysis, logistic regression analysis, and survival analysis. This presentation focuses on the content and syntax of the software. Examples from NCHS population-based surveys are used to illustrate the software.

C-27. Spanish Translation Issues: Language, Culture, or Both? A New Translation Methodology That Helps You Do It Right.

As of the 2000 census, Hispanics are now about equal with African Americans, comprising over 12 percent of the U.S. population. Because of immigration and increasing multiculturalism in the United States, there is a growing awareness of the need to translate questionnaires into Spanish and other non-English languages for government and other surveys. What is the best way to translate a questionnaire into another language? What are some of the pitfalls? What are some of the solutions? Is culture separate from language? Tell us about your experiences and hear from the experts in the trenches concerning what does and does not work.

C-28. Compensation Methods for Missing Data in National Surveys

This presentation includes a description of the procedure used to compensate for missing data due to unit and item nonresponse. It also discusses procedures to produce analysis weights for the data from Phase 1 of the third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES III), 1988–91. Topics include a summary of the compensation methods for missing data, sample design for NHANES III, procedures used to identify weighting classes to adjust the basic sampling weights for unit nonresponse, the use of health variables in addition to sociodemographic variables, household size, and geographic location to protect against bias in survey estimates, ratio adjustments, and linearization methods for variance estimation.

D. Analysis and Epidemiology

D-1. Decreasing Hospital Use in the 1990s

According to data from the National Hospital Discharge Survey, people spent almost 40 million fewer days in short-stay hospitals in 1997 than they did in 1990. The rate of hospital days decreased by 27 percent, due primarily to a 20 percent decline in the average length of stay. The discharge rate declined by only 8 percent. Trends are examined for age and sex groups, geographic regions, diagnostic categories, and types of surgeries.

D-2. Examining Change in a Cohort of Elderly Americans

Providing for an increasing number of older people is one of the great challenges facing the public health establishment today. Knowing how a cohort changes with age is critical for developing good policy. This presentation provides data on the aging of one cohort from the Longitudinal Study of Aging and suggests other research that could be based on these data.

D-3. Trends in Hepatitis B Virus Using Data From NHANES II and NHANES III

This presentation describes data from the second and third National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys to look at trends in the seroprevalence of HBV infection in the United States. Due to the extensive data collected in NHANES, serologic markers can be correlated with a variety of demographic characteristics and health variables.

D-4. Multiple Births: Trends and Outcomes

During 1980 to 1996, the number of twin births rose 56 percent (from 68,338 to 106,689) and the twin birth rate by 37 percent (18.9 to 25.9 per 1,000 live births). The number and rate of triplet and other higher order births has climbed even more dramatically; the number from 1,104 to 5,939 and the higher order multiple birth rate from 37.0 to 152.6 per 100,000. The rapid rise in multiples has been attributed to an increase in delayed childbearing and in the use of fertility-enhancing therapies. However, both mother and child are at high risk of poor outcome in a multiple gestation; multiple births are more likely than singletons to be born too early and too small and to die within the first year of life. Trends, outcomes, and the reasons

behind the amazing climb in multiple births are discussed and interpreted.

D-5. Twins and Other Multiple Births: Time Trends and Perinatal Outcomes

Perinatal and infant outcomes among twins and other multiple births have been studied in several NCHS data systems. For example, the U.S. National Natality (live birth) Files have been used: 1) to investigate the increase in the rate of twin, triplet, quadruplet, and quintuplet births over the last two decades; and 2) to generate intrauterine growth standards (centiles of birthweight-for-gestation) for twins. The U.S. Linked Birth/Infant Death Data Sets have been used: 1) to compare birthweight-specific infant mortality in singletons, twins, and triplets; 2) to study time trends in infant mortality in twins and triplets; 3) to study the relationship of maternal risk factors to twin infant mortality; and 4) to investigate the effect of birthweight discordance on twin infant mortality. The more important findings from these NCHS studies of multiple births are presented and discussed.

D-6. Issues in Women's Health: Menopause, Hysterectomy, and Hormone Replacement Therapy

This presentation uses the 20-year followup in the NHANES I Epidemiologic Followup Study to address health events regarding menopausal issues, specifically use of postmenopausal estrogen and progestin therapy and hysterectomy. It will cover how the questions related to these topics have been asked over each of the followup waves and what methodological issues are raised by changes in the questions. Estimates of hormones ever used, lengths of use, and age at last use will be presented as well as socioeconomic correlates of these endpoints. Similarly, use of hysterectomy operations according to various socioeconomic factors will be covered. The data will also be used to look at the potential bias introduced into studies of disease associations with use of hormone therapy due to differences between users and nonusers.

D-7. Asthma and Hispanic Ethnicity in Adults and Children

This research uses data from the 1998 NHIS to explore behavioral and environmental risk factors for asthma in conjunction with Hispanic ethnicity.

D-8. Do Older Adults in the United States Have Access to Health Care? Data From the National Health Interview Survey

In 1993, over 3.3 million older adults, 65 years of age and over, had at least one unmet health care need. Older adults who do not supplement Medicare with private coverage are twice as likely to have unmet medical needs, including routine immunizations. In this presentation, data from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) Access to Care and Year 2000 Supplements are used to show the problems U.S. elderly persons have in obtaining health care. The NHIS uses a nationally representative sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States. This presentation will examine regular source of care, unmet medical needs, and clinical and preventive services in relation to selected demographic variables and insurance coverage. These issues will be presented with the most current NHIS data available.

D-9. Changes in Hospital Care for Childbirth

Changes in the care provided to women hospitalized for childbirth during the 1980s and 1990s are examined using data from the National Hospital Discharge Survey. Rates of cesarean deliveries increased until the late 1980s, declined for a few years, and then leveled off. Other obstetrical procedures, such as artificial rupture of membranes, medical induction of labor, and vacuum extraction greatly increased in the 1980s and 1990s. However, two common procedures, forceps delivery and episiotomy, decreased substantially during this period. The average length of a hospital stay for childbirth decreased until 1995, but then increased, mainly because of fewer stays of 1 day or less.

D-10. Analyzing Data From the National Mortality Followback Survey

All our lives will end, but we hope for a long and vibrant life. The 1993 NMFS provides a unique opportunity to examine: 1) socioeconomic differentials in mortality, 2) health risk behaviors in relation to mortality, 3)

disability in the last year of life, 4) the reliability and validity of certain items reported on the death certificate, and 5) identifying strategies to prevent deaths due to trauma. This session discusses the content, data structure, analytical methods, and limitations of the 1993 NMFS. The results from analyzing various topics contribute to the understanding of health-related issues for disease prevention and health promotion.

D-11. America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being

To foster coordination of the data collection and reporting on children, the National Center for Health Statistics participates with other Federal agencies in the Federal Forum on Child and Family Statistics. The annual publication *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being*, one of the main products of the Forum, utilizes data from several Federal agencies to provide a summary of national indicators of child well-being and monitors them over time. An overview of the report will be presented, and issues related to selecting national child well-being indicators will be discussed.

D-12. Mental Health Data in the National Health Interview Survey

Data on mental health and the use of mental health services by children and adults are collected in the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). Questions about mental health are often considered to be sensitive for a household interview. This presentation reviews recent national data on mental health collected in the NHIS and discusses issues involved in collecting sensitive data in a national household survey. Future survey plans for mental health topics are also presented.

D-13. The Epidemiology of Selected Infectious Diseases in the U.S. Population

The prevalence of serologic markers of the hepatitis viruses (A, B, C, and D) are presented from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys (NHANES). Data are also

available on the seroepidemiology of toxoplasmosis, rubella, varicella, and HIV. Due to the extensive data collected in the NHANES, serologic markers can be correlated with a variety of demographic characteristics and health variables.

D-14. Food Security in the United States: An Overview of Federal Activities

With the passage of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 (P.L. 104–193), the Federal guarantee of providing welfare benefits to all eligible mothers and children is eliminated and States are allowed to create their own programs. Created by a Federal nutrition monitoring body, the Welfare Reform, Nutrition, and Data Needs Working Group, brings together staff who work for the Federal and State governments, advocacy groups, and other nongovernment organizations that are charged with determining whether or not we are able to monitor the effects of welfare reform on nutrition and health. Members from the group have worked to develop a tool to measure food security in U.S. households (now being included in several Federal surveys) and have also provided technical assistance on the development of a *Healthy People 2010* objective on food security and the planning of various conferences on the topic. Various individuals from the group also worked on a U.S. action plan to reduce food insecurity. The presentation provides an overview of these and other activities related to welfare reform and nutrition monitoring.

D-15. Analyzing Drug Data From the Ambulatory Medical Care Surveys

The National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS) and the National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS) are conducted annually to provide comprehensive data on the patient, provider, and visit characteristics of visits to physician offices and hospital emergency and outpatient departments. Data on medications provided or prescribed at ambulatory visits are collected. The National Center for Health Statistics maintains a comprehensive drug database on

medications mentioned in the NAMCS and NHAMCS, including therapeutic class, generic and ingredient substances, and prescription status. This presentation provides methodological considerations when using NAMCS and NHAMCS data for analyzing the use of medication therapy in ambulatory medical care.

D-16. The Health Status of the Hispanic Population

This presentation provides an overview of the current health and mortality status of the Hispanic population in the United States, with special emphasis on disparities within and between the Hispanic and non-Hispanic populations. It is based on analysis of data from 1997–2000 National Health Interview Surveys and 2000 vital statistics mortality data. Topics covered include prevalence of poor health risk factors, health care coverage and utilization, chronic diseases, overall mortality, and leading causes of death.

D-17. Trends in Hepatitis A Virus Using Data From NHANES II and NHANES III

This presentation describes data from the second and third National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys to look at trends in the seroprevalence of HAV infection in the United States. Due to the extensive data collected in NHANES, serologic markers can be correlated with a variety of demographic characteristics and health variables.

D-18. Issues in Tracking the Leading Health Indicators

The Leading Health Indicators, developed as part of *Healthy People 2010*, will be used to assess the health of the Nation over the next 10 years. Each of the 10 Leading Health Indicators has one or more objectives from *Healthy People 2010* associated with it. As a group, the Leading Health Indicators reflect the determinants of the major health concerns in the United States at the beginning of the 21st century. The Leading Health Indicators were selected on the basis of their ability to motivate

action, the availability of data to measure progress, and their importance as public health issues.

The Leading Health Indicators are—

1. Physical Activity
2. Overweight and Obesity
3. Tobacco Use
4. Substance Abuse
5. Responsible Sexual Behavior
6. Mental Health
7. Injury and Violence
8. Environmental Quality
9. Immunization
10. Access to Health Care

This presentation will address monitoring the Leading Health Indicators at the national, State, and local levels, including measurement issues, periodicity of data collection, and comparability of data systems used at different geographic levels.

D-19. Births to Unmarried Women

After rising dramatically during the half century from 1940 to 1990, out-of-wedlock childbearing leveled off or slowed its rate of increase during the 1990s. Trends observed during the 1990s differ slightly depending on which of three key measures of out-of-wedlock childbearing is used. Many factors have contributed to the long-term changes as well as the more recent trends, including changes in marriage patterns, sexual activity, contraceptive use, and abortion. In 2000, there were an estimated 1.3 million births to unmarried women, double the number in 1980. The rate of nonmarital childbearing increased rapidly from 1980 to the mid-1990s and has since increased much more slowly. The recent increases have been most pronounced among women aged 20 and over. Teenagers now account for less than one-third of all nonmarital births, compared with half in the mid-1970s. Unmarried mothers tend to have poorer birth outcomes than married mothers because they are disproportionately young, poorly educated, and more likely to be poor. These patterns and variations, based primarily on data from birth certificates, are described and discussed. The experience of the United

States is put into context with data on nonmarital childbearing for other industrialized countries.

D-20. Trends in Pregnancies and Pregnancy Rates

During the period from 1980 to 1997, about 10 to 11 percent of women in the childbearing ages (15–44 years) were pregnant in any year. The 1997 total of 6.2 million pregnancies included 3.9 million live births, 1.3 million induced abortions, and nearly 1 million miscarriages and stillbirths. The number of pregnancies and the pregnancy rate have fallen in the 1990s, partly reflecting the decline in the number and proportion of women in their twenties, the peak ages for pregnancies. The estimated number of pregnancies and the pregnancy rate each fell 9 to 10 percent from 1990 to 1997; the fertility rate fell 8 percent and the abortion rate dropped 19 percent during this period. Trends in pregnancies and pregnancy rates by age and outcome, including patterns for teenagers, are discussed, as well as rates for married and unmarried women. In addition, differences in pregnancy rates, rates by outcome, and lifetime pregnancies among Hispanic and non-Hispanic white and black women are described and interpreted in this presentation.

D-21. Infertility and the Use of Medical Care for Infertility: 1965–95

The National Survey of Family Growth is the primary source of data on infertility and the use of medical care for infertility in the United States. The NSFG publishes two measures of fertility problems: infertility defined solely for married women and includes problems in conceiving a baby, and impaired fecundity defined as including problems in conceiving or delivering a baby. Trends over the past three decades in these two measures of fertility problems are described within the context of sociodemographic changes in the population—specifically, the aging of the large baby boom cohorts and the greater prevalence of delayed childbearing. Findings are also presented on the use of medical services for

infertility. These data have been collected in the three most recent NSFG cycles (1982, 1988, and 1995), with an increasing level of detail and clinical/policy usefulness.

D-22. International Comparison by Indication of Cesarean Section Delivery in the 1980s

The cesarean section rate in the United States remains among the highest in the world despite a leveling-off in the late 1980s. This presentation compares the level and trends in the use of cesarean delivery by indication in the United States, Norway, Scotland, and Sweden during the 1980s. A comparison based on medical indication for cesarean section is used to identify factors underlying national differences in obstetrical delivery practice and to identify pathways to decrease cesarean section rates, particularly in the United States.

D-23. Trends and Variations in Births to Hispanic Women

The birth certificates of all States and the District of Columbia include items on the Hispanic or ethnic origin of parents. These items were added to the birth certificates beginning in 1978. More than 800,000 babies were born to Hispanic women in 2000, about 1 in every 5 births in the United States. Birth and fertility rates for Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, and other Hispanic women are shown for the years 1978–99 and are compared with rates for white and black non-Hispanic women. While fertility rates for Hispanic women as a group are substantially higher than for other population groups, there are sizable variations in the rates among Hispanic subgroups. Using data from the birth certificates, maternal and infant health characteristics, and medical and lifestyle risk factors are compared for babies born to Hispanic and to non-Hispanic women. Differences among Hispanic subgroups according to mother's country of birth are also discussed.

D-24. Analyzing Emergency Department Data From the NHAMCS

The National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS) is conducted annually to provide comprehensive data on the patient, provider, and visit characteristics of visits to hospital emergency and outpatient departments. The emergency department data set is especially useful for examining data on medical and trauma emergencies such as heart attacks, drug overdoses, chest pains, abdominal pains, and injuries from falls or motor vehicle crashes. Diagnosis, treatment, and outcome patterns for various conditions can be described or modeled. This presentation provides an overview of methodological considerations for analyzing NHAMCS emergency department data.

D-25. Epidemiologic Issues in the Study of Infant Mortality and Low Birthweight

This presentation covers a wide range of research on issues related to infant mortality and low birthweight. Particular emphasis is given to trends in infant mortality at the national, State, and local levels; the use of linked birth and death records to assess maternal factors related to pregnancy outcome; the effects of smoking on pregnancy outcome; and analysis of differentials in pregnancy outcome by race and ethnicity.

D-26. Health, United States

This presentation is a discussion of highlights from *Health, United States*, the annual report on the health of the Nation compiled by NCHS and submitted by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to the President and Congress. *Health, United States* presents national trends in public health statistics organized around four major subject areas: health status and determinants, utilization of health resources, health care resources, and health care expenditures.

D-27. Collection of Race and Ethnicity Data in National Health Surveys

In 1997 the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) revised its standards for the collection

of race and ethnicity data throughout the Federal statistical system, also known as OMB Directive 15. The central feature of this revised standard is that it allows respondents to the census and Federal surveys to indicate more than one race for the first time. This promises to have a tremendous impact on the way race and ethnicity data are collected and analyzed in the future. This presentation provides a general background for the changes to the OMB Directive 15, and highlights the issues associated with collecting race and ethnicity data from vital statistics records, administrative records, and face-to-face and telephone surveys. Selected data from NCHS data systems are used to illustrate the challenges in tabulating and analyzing data on multiracial population groups.

D-28. Diabetes Incidence and Mortality in a Nationally Representative Cohort

Data from the NHANES I Epidemiologic Followup Study are used to study the risk factors for diabetes incidence with particular emphasis on the role of obesity and socioeconomic status. In addition, the mortality experience of diabetics and nondiabetics is compared. Emphasis is placed on the contribution of diabetes to mortality by cause of death, as well as differentials by sex and other baseline characteristics.

D-29. Do Children in the United States Have Access to Health Care? Data From the National Health Interview Survey

In 1993, over 4 million (6 percent) U.S. children from infants to 17 years lacked a regular source of health care, and over 7.3 million children had at least one unmet need or had delayed medical care because of worry about the cost of care. In this presentation, the most recent data from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) are used to show the problems children have in obtaining health care, as indicated by source of care, health care coverage, delays in care, and inability to obtain care.

D-30 General Considerations When Conducting Trend Analysis With Data From the National Center for Health Statistics

Many NCHS data systems have the potential to examine trends in the prevalence of risk factors, diseases, and health outcomes such as doctor visits or mortality. However, care must be taken when using NCHS data for this purpose. For example, data systems will change over time; rubrics to classify diseases or health-related events may change; or the survey sample design may vary. All of these factors can influence observed trends in the outcomes of interest. This presentation highlights key epidemiologic issues to consider when trends analysis is being conducted.

D-31. The Availability and Use of Data From the National Center for Health Statistics Regarding Diabetes

This presentation discusses the current and future availability of data pertaining to diabetes at NCHS. Sources of the data include interviews, physical examinations, health care utilization surveys, and birth and death certificates. The strengths and limitations of these data are described. The presentation also highlights some examples of analyses that used these data. The examples demonstrate how the data can be used for cross-sectional, longitudinal, and trend studies.

D-32. Data Warehouse on Trends in Health and Aging

The Data Warehouse on Trends in Health and Aging is a user-friendly Web-based archive of data on the NCHS Web site—www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/otheract/aging/trenddata.htm—featuring data on the health and well-being of older Americans. This presentation is an overview of the structure and features of the Data Warehouse, including the data sources, health measures, and methods of using the data. The presentation can include a hands-on tutorial on how to use the site to access and download data. Depending on the interests of the audience, the presentation can focus on specific measures, such as mortality,

health status, use of hospitals or nursing homes, or Medicare spending or other topics. Some data are available at the State level, such as risk factors, health status, mortality, and Medicare spending. The presentation can focus on State-level data, if desired.

D-33. Trends in Herpes Simplex II Using Data From NHANES II and NHANES III

This presentation describes data from the second and third National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys to look at trends in the seroprevalence of HSV II infection in the United States. Due to the extensive data collected in NHANES, serologic markers can be correlated with a variety of demographic characteristics and health variables including sexual behavior data.

D-34. The Serioepidemiology of Hepatitis C Virus in the United States

This presentation describes data from the third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey that provide an estimate of the seroprevalence of hepatitis C virus (HCV) in a representative sample of the U.S. population. These data are the first estimates of HCV infection in the United States for this recently identified virus. Due to the extensive data collected in NHANES, serologic markers can be correlated with a variety of demographic characteristics and health variables including sexual behavior data.

D-35 Immunity to Selected Vaccine Preventable Diseases in the United States, NHANES III

This presentation provides an estimate of tetanus immunity levels in the United States using data from NHANES III. Despite the availability of effective vaccines against tetanus since the 1940s, NHANES III confirmed the existence of substantial gaps in tetanus immunity, particularly among the elderly who were either never vaccinated or had lost the protective tetanus antibody due to waning

immunity. Risk factors for lack of immunity are described using the extensive demographic and health data collected in NHANES.

D-36. Profile of the Older U.S. Population: Recent Trends and Data Sources

A profile of the demographic, health, and socioeconomic status of the U.S. older population is presented in this talk. Using data from the volume *Older Americans 2000: Key Indicators of Well-Being* and from the Data Warehouse on Trends in Health and Aging (www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/otheract/aging/trenddata.htm) recent trends in the well-being of the elderly are discussed. Various indicators of well-being are shown (for example the percent of the older population in poverty, disability rates over time, and out-of-pocket health care expenditures.) Trends in health and use of health care services such as hospitals and nursing homes are highlighted. Also, sources of data on the elderly and how to access them are described

D-37. Adolescent Health Indicators: Findings From the Adolescent Health Chartbook

Adolescence is a period of accelerated growth and change, bridging the complex transition from childhood to adulthood. Young people experience profound biological, emotional, intellectual, and social changes, and the patterns of behavior they adopt may have long-term consequences for their health and quality of life. Measurements of health status, access to care, reproductive health, risk behaviors, and population demographic variables during the transition from childhood to adulthood are presented. Many of the health status measures are shown by single year of age or by 2- or 3-year age intervals to highlight the changes that occur in health as adolescents move through this important developmental period. Disparities in race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status and gender differences are also presented.

D-38. Injury Data From the National Center for Health Statistics

Injury is recognized as one of the major public health problems currently facing the United States. NCHS collects morbidity and mortality data related to injury. This presentation discusses the different data collection mechanisms and the variables used to measure injury.

D-39. Nursing Home Utilization Profiles for an Admissions Cohort

Data from the 1985 National Nursing Home Survey are used to describe and characterize utilization patterns for a cohort of first admissions to nursing homes. Methodological and conceptual issues involved in the analysis and interpretation of these data are discussed.

D-40. Infant Mortality in the United States: An Introductory Explanation

Data from a variety of NCHS data sources will be used to provide an overview of U.S. infant mortality. The presentation will explore the contribution of birthweight distribution and birthweight-specific mortality to a population's overall infant mortality rate. The influence of parental factors on low-birthweight and birthweight-specific mortality will be explored. All of those factors will be used to examine the marked racial and ethnic infant mortality differences that persist in the United States.

D-41. Trends in Delayed Childbearing

American women have been postponing marriage and childbearing to an unprecedented extent since the early 1970s. Because birth rates for women in their twenties (the principal childbearing ages) have been very stable, and rates for teenagers have fallen significantly, relatively large proportions of women are still childless at age 30. Numbers and rates of first births for women in their thirties have doubled, tripled, and quadrupled since 1970. For example, the first-birth rate for women aged 30–34 in 2000 was 27 births per 1,000, compared with 7 in 1970. Trends in first-birth rates by age of mother are presented for 1970–2000. The unique sociodemographic

composition of women who postpone motherhood is described. Also discussed are differentials by age of mother in various medical and lifestyle risk factors and infant health measures, and the impact of current population patterns on possible future trends in delayed childbearing.

D-42. Teen Sexual Activity, Contraceptive Use, and Pregnancy

There are approximately 1 million pregnancies among teens each year in the United States, a rate that surpasses that of every other industrialized democracy. The National Survey of Family Growth is a principal source of estimates of the antecedents to teen pregnancy: teen sexual activity and contraceptive use among females. The NSFG interviewed women aged 15–44 in 1973, 1976, 1982, 1988, and 1995, so it allows examination of trends in levels of sexual activity among teens for more than two decades. In addition to tracking the incidence, the NSFG allows examination of other aspects of sexual activity, including whether or not first sex was voluntary; age and other characteristics of the first voluntary sex; selected other male sexual partners; number of sexual partners within specified time frames; current sexual activity and frequency; contraceptive use at first and last intercourse; formal instruction on sex education topics; and wantedness of pregnancies. A rich array of background characteristics is available, enabling detailed analyses of the processes by which teens become sexually active and the circumstances and consequences of sexual activity.

D-43. Trends in Risk Factors of the Aging Population of the United States

The Data Warehouse on Trends and Health and Aging available on the CDC Web site—www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/otheract/aging/trenddata.htm—can be used as a tool to monitor changes in the health status of the aging population of the United States. In this presentation, we look at risk factors for disease, such as obesity, cigarette smoking, exercise, and immunization. These risk factors come

from a variety of surveys conducted by CDC and NCHS. These trends are examined over time and compared with the trends in rates of chronic disease among the elderly. We will examine these trends by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin, from the years 1985–99. The presentation will also show how to display these results graphically using the Beyond 20/20 software. Other uses of the Data Warehouse will be examined, including trends in mortality, health care utilization, and health care expenditures. The user will learn how to import and export the trend data to be used in other applications.

D-44. Do Working-Age Adults in the United States Have Access to Health Care? Data From the National Health Interview Survey

In 1993, 33 million (20.9 percent) adults aged 18–64 in the United States had unmet medical needs. In this presentation, data from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) Access to Care Supplements are used to show the problems working-age adults have in the United States obtaining health care. The NHIS uses a nationally representative sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States. This presentation will examine selected access indicators by selected demographic variables with the most current NHIS data available. Access indicators considered include regular source of medical care, insurance coverage, and health care issues such as delaying medical care due to cost and the inability to obtain prescription medicines, dental care, and eyeglasses.

D-45. Childlessness in America

The postponement of childbearing among younger women in the recent past has resulted in the current pattern of larger proportions being childless at older ages. Among women reaching the end of the childbearing period, those aged 40–44, the percent childless rose from 9 in 1975 to 16 in 1993. The National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) allows examination of the phenomenon of childlessness in a particularly meaningful way. Because it includes information on women's

and their partners' biological impediments to childbearing and information on expectations for future births, it is possible to distinguish those who have or expect no children even though they are biologically capable of reproducing: the "voluntarily childless." The NSFG also includes measures of the subjective desire for children, allowing one to go beyond biological characteristics and further refine the classification of women as "voluntarily childless." These measures have been available in most of the five cycles of the NSFG, allowing trend analysis over a substantial period of time.

D-46. Women's Health Overview: National Data Available From the National Center for Health Statistics that Address Health Issues of Adult Women

This presentation provides an overview of the NCHS data systems and how they can be used to address questions of health and health care utilization among women. Each data system is described in terms of how the information is collected, what information is obtained, and recent improvements in the data collection. Examples of investigations of the health of women using each of the data systems are provided, such as use of hormone replacement therapy, the associations with disease outcomes, breast cancer mortality, prevalence and health services use, and osteoporosis.

D-47. Firearms in American Households

After a recent survey of data on mortality and injury involving firearms, public health objectives for safe storage of firearms in the home are reviewed. Home storage of firearms is described using data from the National Health Interview Survey, and the social and demographic factors associated with safe storage practices are examined. Attention is also given to methodological issues in survey measurement of firearm ownership and storage.

D-48. Reaching the Media With the Results of Your Research

Most Americans and even most policymakers receive their health news through the

media—television, newspapers, and magazines. However, researchers and scientists are often more adept at communicating their findings through the scientific literature than in working with a reporter to announce or explain their results. This presentation provides an overview of the media and its requirements. It covers how to find the media, how to promote a story, how to work better with the press, how to ensure better coverage, and how to prepare for media interviews.

D-49. Overweight Prevalence—Evidence From NHANES

The goal of this presentation is to create an awareness of a significant nutrition-related problem of clinical and public health importance using data on overweight and obesity from the NHANES. Descriptive statistics are provided on the current prevalence of overweight in American youths and adults, and trends in overweight over time are examined based on nationally representative data from the NCHS Health Examination Surveys.

D-50. Use of Inappropriate Prescription Drugs Among Elderly Americans

There is currently a great deal of interest from both the medical and the health care policy communities on the use of prescription drugs by the elderly. This interest covers a range of issues including drug underutilization, overutilization (polypharmacy), and costs and the quality of drug prescribing. This presentation describes the prevalence of and risk factors for the use of potentially inappropriate prescription medications among elderly (age 65 and over) Americans. The analysis used explicit criteria for potentially inappropriate drugs for elderly persons and data from three national surveys: the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey, the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, and the National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

D-51. Data on AIDS Available From the National Center for Health Statistics

In this presentation, the available data on AIDS are described. A discussion of the problems

related to the collection and interpretation of the data is included.

D-52. Estimates of Healthy Life Expectancy and Associated Health Care Costs for the Aged

As the percent of the U.S. population age 65 and over increases, it is important to estimate not only total life expectancy past age 65, but also how much of the remaining life will be spent in good health. This presentation will discuss the latest findings on how much of elderly persons' remaining years will be spent in good health and how much in a functionally limited state in the community or in a nursing home. The results are analyzed by gender, race, age, and beginning health state. The health care costs associated with each health state will be presented by type of service.

D-53. The Mental Health Status of the Aging Population: A Comparative Analysis

This presentation discusses different methods and questions used to measure mental illness in community-based surveys, such as the NHIS and the Health and Retirement Survey. It explains the problems inherent in case identification and measurement of various mental disorders and discusses the special difficulties associated with measuring mental illness among the elderly. Using major depression as an example, prevalence rates from three different surveys and three different instruments are compared. Possible reasons for observed differences are discussed.

D-54. Issues in the Process of Revising the National Center for Health Statistics Growth Charts

The NCHS growth charts currently used nationally and adapted for use internationally were developed in the mid-1970s. Since then, statistical and substantive concerns have been identified with regard to the creation of the original charts. This presentation describes these concerns and discusses steps being undertaken in a multiphasic process to revise the NCHS growth charts with data from the 1988–94 NHANES III.

D-55. Adult Health Behaviors: Smoking, Alcohol, Physical Activity, and Obesity Data From the NHIS

The health behaviors of adults are currently of considerable interest to public health experts, and the NHIS features an array of indicators that measures such behaviors. For example, questions on smoking and drinking behaviors, in particular, have been included periodically in the NHIS almost from the beginning of the survey in 1957 (although the questions have been modified over the years). This presentation provides data from the “new” (since 1997) NHIS, and can include, in addition to findings from the data, the rationale behind those questions that are asked annually in the NHIS as opposed to those that are asked periodically. The presentation can also cover trend data and/or associations between adult health behaviors and other health outcomes.

how the key measures were initially selected and defined. The key health measures that are monitored include health insurance coverage, usual place of medical care, unmet health needs, influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations, obesity, regular leisure-time physical activities, current smoking, excessive alcohol consumption, human immunodeficiency virus testing, and general health status. Excellent timeliness of release of these results is possible by using partial-year NHIS data. New measures will be added as data become available and in response to changing data needs.

D-56. In-House Data Analysis in a Statistical Agency

Government statistical agencies are charged with collecting, analyzing, and disseminating data. Each agency must consider the extent to which it can devote human and other resources to data analysis. This talk presents a case for devoting significant time and other resources to analysis of survey data by staff within the statistical agency.

D-57. Monitoring Key Health Indicators—Early Data from the NHIS

The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) serves as a primary source of information on the health status and health care utilization of the household population of the United States. In 1997, the content of the NHIS was redesigned and included many key measures of health currently needed by public health workers and health policymakers. This presentation focuses on a new electronic data dissemination mechanism, The Early Release Program, which is used to monitor the changes over time in leading health indicators and to provide timely estimates which are available on the NCHS Web site. The presentation will cover

E. Information Technology

E-1. Mortality Medical Indexing, Classification, and Retrieval System

Mortality Medical Indexing, Classification, and Retrieval (MICAR) is an automated medical coding system designed to accept medical terms as input principally in natural language text via a key-entry operator. It also has the capability of assigning the conventional *International Classification of Diseases* (ICD) codes to these medical terms and can store and retain for retrieval the natural language text and the ICD codes.

E-2. Automation of Methods for Tracing Subjects and Proxy Respondents in Longitudinal Cohorts

As the number of longitudinal studies fielded by NCHS grows, the burden of tracing the cohort members, their proxy respondents, and other contacts becomes increasingly unwieldy. To manage the workload and maintain consistency among the tracing efforts for a variety of surveys, an automated system has been implemented. This presentation includes a discussion of a variety of techniques for obtaining and maintaining address, telephone, and vital status information on survey subjects. The difficulties and advantages of automating the tracing process are introduced. Specific topics include confidentiality issues, techniques for determining the information most likely to be accurate, comparisons of results from different tracing methods, and processing considerations such as database storage and the user interface. Some examples from the NCHS automated system are presented.

E-3. Survey Statistics Automation

NCHS is developing a completely automated system from source data collection to final report dissemination. Data collection, editing, processing, analysis, report preparation, publishing, and dissemination will be accomplished through a system of portable and fixed microcomputers networked with a large mainframe computer. The system will also allow survey instrument design and processing by microcomputer.

E-4. Statistical Export and Tabulation System (SETS) Data Retrieval Software

SETS is a unique collection of programs that enable the personal computer user to easily access data formerly available only on a mainframe computer. This software was developed by the National Center for Health Statistics for distribution of survey data on CD-ROM. The SETS software can be used on virtually any data set. The data applications produced with this kit may be distributed without licensing fees. This presentation includes a discussion on the benefits of using the SETS software for data retrieval and a demonstration of the capabilities of the SETS software, which includes browsing data and documentation, generating tables and queries, creating data subsets, and exporting data from SETS to EPI Info, SAS, SPSS, and BMDP.

E-5. Applied Information Technology (IT) Research Issues for Statistical Agencies and a Digital Government: A National Science Foundation Initiative

The National Center for Health Statistics and other Federal statistical agencies are partnering with the National Science Foundation's Digital Government Program to support applied IT research with university researchers. Ongoing research areas include new authoring and computer-assisted interviewing systems, tabular and graphical displays of complex data, data access methods; secure access systems, and mapping systems. This presentation will discuss research areas currently being addressed and future applied IT research needs of Federal statistical agencies.

E-6. Public Health Informatics on the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

This topic will provide an overview of the information technology used to support the collection and reporting of data collected in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). NCHS conducts NHANES to monitor trends in the prevalence, awareness, treatment, and control of selected diseases including sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), risk behaviors, environmental exposures, nutrition, and other public health issues. The information technology employed on NHANES

supports in-home interviews and comprehensive medical examinations in mobile examination centers (MECs). The technology integrated into NHANES allows for near-real time quality assurance and control, survey management, analysis, data dissemination, and reporting of examination findings, including sensitive information to survey participants.

E-7. Quality Assurance/Quality Control on the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

This topic provides an overview of a comprehensive, continuous, and tightly integrated quality assurance (QA)/quality control (QC) program currently in place for the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. QA/QC is one of the most important aspects of this study, because the integrity of the conclusions drawn by the study is in large part determined by the quality of the data collected. There are two basic components of insuring data integrity: quality assurance and quality control. QA consists of those activities that take place before data collection or in improving and refining data collection; QC consists of those activities that take place during and after data collection. Manual development, training/retraining before and during the survey, and certification of examiners and feedback are part of the QA process. Component completion rates, validation of household interviews, contractor and subcontractor debriefings; examiner performance, reliability, and validity; MEC examination flow; and equipment performance are part of the QC process.

E-8. Aspects of Metadata Collection Related to NHANES

This topic will cover the NHANES metadata collection, storage, retrieval, and standards.

Aspects to be discussed include program standards, historical metadata from earlier NHES and NHANES surveys, systems developed to capture and access the metadata, and applicability of emerging standards such as Government Information Locator Service for the development of metadata clearinghouses.

E-9. Collection of NHANES Quality Assurance and Control Data Using Personal Digital Assistants

This topic will cover electronic capture of the quality assurance and quality control data in the NHANES mobile examination center (MEC) using personal digital assistants. Considering the number of field visits, the cost of travel, and the unavailability of aggregated data resulting from these field visits, and its value to the quality of the data collected, a research and development project was conducted to assess whether small mobile devices such as a personal digital assistant could be used to capture the checklist information for data analysis and historical purposes. The objectives of this effort were to as follows:

- Determine which device(s) are most appropriate for project.
- Develop an integrated architecture that allows for electronic field data capture and extraction, transformation, and loading of checklist data to the NHANES database.
- Determine the strengths, limitations, and weaknesses of this solution.
- Determine whether other possible applications exist for the use of these devices in source data collection.
- Lay the groundwork for a more ambitious effort in the future that considers wireless transmission of field collected checklist data.

F. Other

F-1. A Career in Statistics With the National Center for Health Statistics

In this presentation, a description is given of the types of statistical problems that a statistician at the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is often asked to solve. Most of the problems deal with the subject areas of sampling and survey design. The discussion includes methodological topics that vary from speaker to speaker, and it may relate to surveys of institutionalized or noninstitutionalized individuals, minority populations, or health care establishments. Examples of topics include optimum recall periods, use of the Yellow Pages to supplement sampling frames, correcting for undercoverage bias in a random-digit-dialed survey, and designing a Hispanic health and nutrition survey. The presentation is intended primarily for students in statistics who are contemplating different career choices, including that of survey designer.

F-2. Minorities in Statistics

Minorities, particularly black people, Hispanics, and American Indians, are underrepresented in the field of statistics. Special efforts are being made at NCHS and other Federal agencies to inform minorities of the advantages and excellent opportunities relating to statistical careers. In this presentation, topics of particular interest to minorities are discussed, including the study and analysis of racial and ethnic statistics in such areas as labor, income, and health characteristics.

F-3. Geography Careers in Public Health

Geographers can make important career contributions to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the field of public health. With the increasing demand for spatial analysis at all levels of government and a growing emphasis on multidisciplinary approaches to problem solving, geographers need to take a more active role in this dynamic area. In this presentation, a variety of issues are delineated to better prepare geographers for occupational access to public health. Curriculum strengthening, minority job opportunities,

employment strategies, and the uses of spatial statistical tools in public health applications are discussed.

F-4. For Information Professionals: Where Do the Numbers Come From?

This presentation for librarians and other information resource providers will take an in-depth look at the surveys NCHS employs to gather the information used in its statistical products. Descriptions of surveys, frequency, and types of data collected are discussed.

F-5. For Information Professionals: Overview of the National Center for Health Statistics Information Resources

This presentation is an overview of NCHS information resources for librarians and other information resource providers. Current information products will be described as well as the manner in which each product can be accessed. Issues of currency, confidentiality, and information use will also be discussed.

F-6. For Information Professionals: Exploring the NCHS Web site

This presentation for librarians and other information resource providers takes an in-depth look at the NCHS Web site. Navigation and search techniques are emphasized.